

November 14, 2019

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)
Manila State Route 255 Shared Use Path Project
ECM PIN CW-861900; WDID 1B190178WNHU
Humboldt County**

On October 08, 2019, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Eureka (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Manila State Route 255 Shared Use Path Project (Project).

Project Location

The project is in unincorporated Humboldt County along State Route (SR) 255, a western alternate to U.S. Highway 101, between the intersection with Dean Street/Pacific Avenue (Post Mile 3.64) and the intersection with Carlson Drive (Post Mile 4.14) in the community of Manila. The project is located at latitude 40.8503 °N and longitude -124.1646 °W, respectively. The elevation within the project area ranges from approximately 17 to 25 feet above mean sea level. The project can be accessed from Eureka by taking the SR 255 exit from US 101, crossing the Samoa Bridge, and heading north along SR 255 for approximately 1.6 miles. From Arcata, the project can be accessed by taking the SR 255 exit from US 101 and heading west towards Manila for 4.6 miles.

Project Description

The Project is intended to provide non-motorized transportation and recreational access in Manila via a Class I bike path (shared use path). SR 255 has no developed facilities for bicycles or pedestrians and the drainage ditches on both sides of the highway force non-motorized users to travel on the highway shoulder. The project would link critical activity centers within the community, including schools and residential areas.

The project would provide a shared use path along the west side of SR 255 beginning near the Dean Street/Pacific Avenue intersection (Post Mile 3.64) and terminating approximately 250 feet north of the Carlson Avenue intersection (Post Mile 4.24). The path would provide a non-motorized alternative to SR 255, link neighborhoods and enhance access for users. The path would be designed as a paved, 10-foot-wide surface with two, two-foot wide shoulders, situated at least five feet from the edge of a standard eight-foot wide shoulder along SR 255. The path alignment would maximize separation from vehicular traffic to provide for the best user experience, and to accommodate highway operations and maintenance activities. Crosswalks would be provided at the Lupin Avenue and Carlson Avenue path-road crossings. The path's

edge of shoulder will be at least 30 feet from the edge of traveled way along SR 255 except for near the three intersections and crosswalks.

The approximately 250-foot extension of the shared use path north of Carlson Avenue is needed to provide connectivity with the planned trail being developed by Friends of the Dunes on their property leading to the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center. This connection will provide a tsunami evacuation route for the Manila community and linkage to a designated parking area which will reduce the likelihood of path users attempting to park within the State right-of-way to access the path. A break in the right-of-way access control fence is proposed to connect the paved shared use path with the trail on the adjacent property.

The project includes intersection and pedestrian safety improvements along Pacific Avenue, including sidewalk, curb ramps and a crosswalk. The project may include streetlight installation at the southern trail terminus at Dean Street/Pacific Avenue intersection to enhance visibility at night.

The project also includes approximately 0.80 acres of onsite wetland establishment within the highway right-of-way between Post Mile 3.45 and 3.58 (south of the intersection with Pacific Avenue) and between Post Mile 3.64 and 4.24, areas adjacent to the proposed trail.

Disturbed areas will be seeded with native seed and container plants will be planted after the first significant rainfall in late fall or early winter when soil moisture is adequate for planting.

Construction Timing

Project construction will occur between April and October in 2020, except for vegetation clearing, which may occur during the non-bird nesting season between August 16 and March 14. Any work within jurisdictional waters during the wet season (October 15 through May 15) will require approval from the Regional Water Board.

Impacts

The Project will result in 0.014 acres of temporary impacts to a stream channel as a result of relocating an existing drainage channel. The Project will also result in 0.78 acres of permanent impacts to wetlands as a result of path construction.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

The proposed Project includes a plan to create 0.8 acres of high-functioning wetlands onsite. Additionally, all temporary impacts will be restored in-kind.

Post-Construction Storm Water Treatment

The Project will not replace or increase impervious surface larger than one acre. Post-construction storm water treatment is not required for this Project.

Other Agency Permits

The Applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit No. 3 (Non-Reporting) pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, the Applicant has applied for a Humboldt County Coastal Development Permit and a Humboldt County Grading Permit.

CEQA

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) has determined that the Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption 15301 Existing Facilities (f). The NCRWQCB will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Public Comments

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed Project including maps and photos. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skyline Blvd, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA. Appointments are recommended for document review and can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

If you have any questions, please contact staff member Brandon Stevens at Brandon.Stevens@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2377 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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